

The present application represents the U.S. National Phase of P.C.T. Application No. PCT/GB00/01493, filed April 17, 2000, and claiming foreign priority on the basis of a corresponding United Kingdom patent application, filed April 23, 1999.

By the present amendment, dependent Claims 3, 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 19, 21 and 22 have been amended in order to remove the multiple dependencies therefrom. Various amendments have also been entered into the Specification and claims for the purpose of improved form. An Abstract on a separate sheet of paper, as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b), is also enclosed.

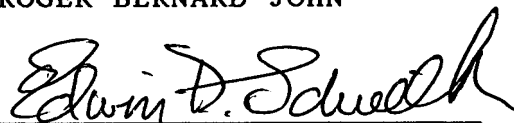
A "marked-up" version of the claim amendments being entered is attached to this Preliminary Amendment.

The application is now in condition for a full examination on the merits.

Accordingly, an early examination on the merits and allowance are, therefore, respectfully requested and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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